



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# Immunization E-Letter

Issue #283

July 18, 2008

## Update of Varicella-Zoster Bulk Based Vaccine Supply

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Medical Assistant Survey	2
Vaccine Information Statements (VISs)	2
Most Current VISs	2
Save the Date—Indiana Immunization Conference	2
Vaccine Storage and Handling FAQs	3
CHIRP Trainings	3
CHIRP Tip	3

Merck has obtained FDA approval for resumption of manufacturing of Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV) bulk. VZV bulk is used to manufacture varicella vaccine, MMR-V vaccine, and zoster vaccine. There is adequate supply of Varivax® (varicella vaccine) to fully implement the recommended immunization schedule for all age groups, including the routine 2-dose schedule for children 12-15 months and 4-6 years, catch-up vaccination with the second dose for children or adolescents who received only 1 dose, and vaccination with 2 doses for other children, adolescents, and adults without evidence of immunity. ProQuad® (MMR-V) remains unavailable. Merck is experiencing shipping delays for the Zoster Vaccine.

### Adult Immunization Schedules

The Immunization Program now has the revised **2008 Adult Immunization Schedules** available for order.

Please note, there have been changes made to the Age- Base Scheduling, Medical/Others Indications Schedule, and Footnotes. To find out more about these changes or to download a copy, please use the link to CDC web site:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/adult-schedule.htm#chgs> and choose the link listed as “Changes in the schedule since last version”.

If you would like to order the schedule on 11 ½ by 17 card stock, please contact Del Anderson at 317-233-7758.

### Vaccine Returns

In addition to previously noted directions on returning expired vaccines, **PLEASE DO NOT SEND EXPIRED VACCINE RETURNS TO GIV**. These are returned to ISDH and return postage is charged.

If you have spoiled or wasted vaccines, all should be listed on a separate return form and an incident report needs to be completed listing how each vaccine has been spoiled or wasted. You may request forms by calling ISDH at 800-701-0704 and ask for Judy or Laura.

### Immunization Program

2 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704  
E-mail: [immunize@isdh.in.gov](mailto:immunize@isdh.in.gov)

## Medical Assistant Survey

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Emory University, Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell Division of Health, and the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) are collaborating on a needs assessment project looking at the immunization training needs of medical assistants across the United States.

Emory University has developed a web-based survey specifically for medical assistants. It is relatively short, 25 questions, and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. To access the survey, medical assistants will go to <http://www.masurvey.org>, read the information provided on this webpage and click CONTINUE to take the survey. The survey is anonymous so there is no way to trace answers back to a specific respondent.

Please help spread the word to medical assistants and let them know about this survey and the opportunity to let their voices be heard. To be included in this project, surveys must be completed by August 8, 2008.

## Vaccine Information Statements (VIS)

### The use of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) is Mandatory!

Some of the legal requirements concerning the use of VISs are as follows:

1. Before an National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) covered vaccine is administered to anyone, you must give the patient or the parent/legal representative a copy of the **most current VIS available for that vaccine**. Make sure you give your patient time to read the VIS prior to the administration of the vaccine.
2. You must record in your patient's chart the **date the VIS was given**.
3. You must also **record on the patient's chart the publication date of the VIS**, which appears on the bottom of the VIS

Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are available in over 30 languages and can be downloaded from the Immunization Action Coalition's website at [www.immunize.org/vis](http://www.immunize.org/vis) or from the CDC's website at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm)

## Most Current Versions of VISs

As of June 2008, the most current versions of the Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) are as follows:

DTaP/DT/DTP.....	5/17/07	PCV.....	9/30/02
Hepatitis A.....	3/21/06	PPV.....	7/29/97
Hepatitis B.....	7/18/07	Polio.....	1/1/00
HPV.....	2/2/07	Rabies.....	1/12/06
Hib.....	12/16/98	rotavirus.....	4/12/06
Influenza (LAIV).....	10/4/07	Shingles.....	9/11/06
Influenza (TIV).....	7/16/07	Td.....	6/10/94
Japan. Enceph.....	5/11/05	Tdap.....	7/12/06
Meningococcal.....	1/28/08	Typhoid.....	5/19/04
MMR.....	3/13/08	Varicella.....	3/13/08

Yellow fever.....11/9/04

New: Multiple vaccine VIS for infants and toddlers:

DTaP+IPV+Hib+PCV+Hep B+Rota.....1/30/08

## Save the Date!

Indiana Immunization Conference  
October 2008

October 6: Holiday Inn Lakeview  
Clarksville

October 8: Indiana Government Center South  
Indianapolis

October 9: Hilton Garden Inn  
South Bend



3 Dates!

3 Locations!



## Vaccine Storage and Handling FAQs - Vaccine Potency

### What happens to vaccine contents when vaccines are not properly stored (i.e. not refrigerated)?

Excessive heat or cold exposure damages vaccine, resulting in loss of potency. Excessive cold exposure is as bad, if not worse than excessive heat exposure for most vaccines. Once potency is lost, it can never be restored. Furthermore, each time vaccine is exposed to excessive heat or cold, the loss of potency increases and eventually, if the cold chain is not correctly maintained, all potency will be lost, and the vaccine becomes useless. HPV, MMR, MMRV, rotavirus, varicella, and zoster vaccines are sensitive to light, which also causes loss of potency of these particular vaccines. If you have concerns about your vaccine supply, contact the vaccine manufacturer and the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 701-0704.

### How can you determine if vaccine has been out of the safe temperature range long enough to affect its efficacy? Is there a set amount of time that is a guideline for vaccine thresholds?

It depends on the vaccine, the length of time it was outside of recommended storage conditions, and the environment it was in (temperature and light). The National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that whenever there is any doubt about the integrity of a vaccine it should be clearly marked "Do Not Use" and stored under appropriate conditions in a properly functioning vaccine storage unit until the integrity of the vaccine is determined. . If you have concerns about vaccine that may not have been stored or handled properly, follow the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program policies and contact either the manufacturer's quality control office or the immunization program for guidance. Do not assume that vaccine inappropriately exposed to light or to excessive temperatures cannot be salvaged.

#### CHIRP Informational Sessions

CHIRP Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to [CHIRP.IN.GOV](http://CHIRP.IN.GOV) to register.

August 14, 2008  
1:00 pm–3:00 pm

**Vigo County**  
Union Hospital,  
Landsbaum Center for Health Education  
1433 North 6 1/2 Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

#### CHIRP User Group Meeting - For *Current* CHIRP Users

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the [CHIRP.IN.GOV](http://CHIRP.IN.GOV) to register.

August 14, 2008  
9:30 am–11:30 am

**Vigo County**  
Union Hospital,  
Landsbaum Center for Health Education  
1433 North 6 1/2 Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47807

#### State Funded Vaccine Webinars

The following sessions have been planned to further explain State Funded Vaccine to providers who are interested in learning more. These sessions will be online and require an Internet connection and speakers. You may register by sending an e-mail to [avounce@isdh.in.gov](mailto:avounce@isdh.in.gov) noting which session you will be attending and to what e-mail address to send the invitation. Sessions are limited to the first 20 individuals.

A—Tuesday, July 22, 2008—7:00 am  
B—Wednesday, July 23, 2008—8:30 am  
C—Thursday, August 21, 2008—7:30 am  
D—Friday, August 22, 2008—Noon

#### CHIRP Tip:

To prevent being locked out by CHIRP, always use the "Logout" link when done using CHIRP. The link can be found on the left menu bar under "Main."